

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request that the above-identified application be re-examined.

Claims 1-43 are pending in this application. The Office Action mailed September 20, 2007 (hereinafter "Office Action"), objected to Claim 14 because of an informality. This amendment amends Claim 14 so as to obviate the informality. As a result, applicants will not further discuss this objection.

The Office Action also rejected Claims 1-43 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable in view of the teachings of U.S. Patent No. 6,980,993, issued to Horvitz et al. (hereinafter "Horvitz et al."), taken in view of the teachings of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0058277, to Bowman-Amuah (hereinafter "Bowman").


Both Horvitz et al. and Bowman are 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) references. Horvitz et al. is assigned to Microsoft Corporation, the assignee of the present application. As a result, applicants make the following statement:

The present application (Application No. 10/809,249) and U.S. Patent No. 6,980,993 (Horvitz et al.) were, at the time the invention of the present application was made, owned by Microsoft Corporation.

Applicants respectfully submit that pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 103(c), the foregoing statement disqualifies Horvitz et al. as a reference under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). As a result, applicants respectfully submit that since the informality in Claim 14 has been rectified, all of the claims in this application are now in condition for allowance. Consequently, early and favorable action passing this application to issue is respectfully solicited. If the Examiner has any questions, he is invited to contact applicants' attorney at the number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

CHRISTENSEN O'CONNOR
JOHNSON KINDNESS^{PLLC}


Gary S. Kindness

Registration No. 22,178

Direct Dial No. 206.695.1702